

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A computer system includes a hard drive having a protected partition, which is locked during operation of an initialization program following power on in the system. A trusted server generates an update partition file, which is transferred to the computer system to be stored in non-volatile storage. During subsequent initialization, before the protected partition is locked, encrypted information available only to the server and the computer system is used to verify that the file was generated by the server, and the file is used to update information within the protected partition.